

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Arizona Zone  
Entomology &  
Pathology

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File Code: 3400  
Route To: 1920

Date: May 1, 1997

Subject: Monitoring of the Side and Dauber fires, Peaks Ranger District, for  
Bark Beetle Activity

To: Chuck McHugh

On April 1, we visited the locations of the Side and Dauber fires to look for evidence of bark beetle attack on trees injured by these fires and to discuss more formal monitoring efforts. We conducted a walkthrough examination in both areas.

In the Side fire, we found five trees attacked by Dendroctonus adjunctus, roundheaded pine beetle. Of those, only 3 three trees had successful attacks. These trees were all located along the southeast side of the fire along the logging road used to provide access for the Side Salvage sale. Beetle activity and attacks could increase in the Side fire area this summer. We examined some of the permanent plots that had been placed in the Side fire area to follow mortality following the fire and I offered to monitor these same plots for beetle activity.

In the Dauber fire, we found quite a number of trees that had been successfully attacked, no currently infested trees however. Western pine beetle, Dendroctonus brevicomis, was the main bark beetle species observed. Most of the attacked trees had sustained considerable injuries, particularly crown scorch, during the fire. This area could still sustain some more attacks this year, since beetle activity tends to peak a year or two after a fire. Trees that sustained relatively greater fire injuries would be the most likely to be attacked. After this year, potential for bark beetle activity should drop off considerably. We also discussed using permanent plots set up in this fire for monitoring beetle activity.

I will do a follow-up beetle survey of the permanent plots plots this summer. I plan to look at both of these areas the week of June 16 with our summer crew. Surveys in both of these areas will provide a more complete examination of the effects of bark beetles following these fires. Following these surveys I'll prepare another monitoring update for the files. In the event that bark beetle activity and tree mortality picks up dramatically in either of these areas, we can provide alternative management responses if needed.

Chuck McHugh

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If you have any questions concerning this letter please give me a call.



Jill L. Wilson

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